

Bird Beaks

Station materials:

- Large tongs (3)
- Flat tongs (3)
- Normal tweezers (3)
- Needle point tweezers (3)
- Clothespins (3)
- Small bowls (9)
- 3 kinds of pasta
- Small cups

Station set-up:

- Distribute the pasta into three of the bowls for each student (3)
- Lay all of the “beaks” (tools) on the table

Guiding the learning:

- Explain to the students that different species of birds have adapted over time to have different size and shaped beaks.
- Instruct the students to pick one type of pasta
- Challenge the students to pick one tool and see how many pieces of pasta they can pick up as they slowly count to 10 (10 seconds) and place into a small cup.
- Count the number of pieces of pasta they were able to collect into their cup. Any number less than 20 means that the bird did not eat enough to survive.
- Challenge the students to choose a different beak and try again.

Science Talking points:

- Organisms have to adapt to survive. One way to adapt is to change their beak over generations to better use their food source (physical adaptation). Another way is to find a new habitat that will provide a different food source that is easier to eat (behavioral adaptation)